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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/044,317	01/11/2002	Jian Chen	50767/P011US/10102697	6768
27683	7590	10/29/2003	EXAMINER	
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP 901 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3100 DALLAS, TX 75202			LISH, PETER J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1754	10
DATE MAILED: 10/29/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/044,317	CHEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Peter J Lish	1754	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-27,29-38 and 40-115 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 61-95 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-27, 29-30, 42-60, 96, 98-107, and 112-115 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 31,36-38,41,97 and 108-111 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 32-35 and 40 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's arguments regarding claim 31, filed 8/21/03, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the soluble organic material of Stepanek et al., specifically ethanol, is not used to grind the nanotubes. This is not persuasive because the ethanol is used to disperse the nanotubes so that they may be ground. While the ethanol of Stepanek et al. does not serve to grind the nanotubes alone, without some sort of force being applied, it is maintained that the ethanol is used for grinding the nanotubes. Additionally, it is seen in the instantly claimed invention that a force is applied to the dispersed nanotubes, specifically the mortar and pestle or mill, in order to grind the nanotubes.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 97 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 97 claims dependency on claim 97. Perhaps claim 97 is meant to depend on claim 96.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 31, 36-38, 41, and 108-111 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Stepanek et al. ("Nano-mechanical cutting and opening of single wall carbon nanotubes").

Stepanek et al. teach a process for the cutting of carbon nanotubes which comprises dispersing the nanotubes in an organic dispersing agent such as ethanol, pouring the suspension over a granular diamond surface, and rubbing, or grinding, until the alcohol evaporation is complete. It is noted that ethanol is soluble in a variety of solvents, including organic solvents and water.

Regarding claim 38, the lengths of the nanotube starting material are taught to be five times higher than those of the cut product. The cut product has lengths ranging from 350-700 nm. Therefore, the starting nanotube material has lengths of greater than one micrometer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 32-35 and 40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-27, 29-30, 42-60, 96, 98-107, and 112-115 are allowed.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter J Lish whose telephone number is 703-308-1772. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-6:00 Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman can be reached on 703-308-3837. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661. or 571-272-1351.

PL


STUART L. HENDRICKSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER